

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
"Creating Community Through People, Parks and Programs"



Tim Gallagher, Director

April 27, 2004

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**ADOPT A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING
SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM
STATE OF CALIFORNIA RESOURCES AGENCY - DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND
RECREATION LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND PROGRAM
(All Districts- 3 Vote Matter)**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Find the proposed projects at Bassett Park, Helen Keller Park, Calabasas Cold Creek Trail, Rowland Heights Park, and Pamela Park are categorically exempt from CEQA.
2. Adopt the attached resolution authorizing the submittal of applications to the State of California Resources Agency, Department of Parks and Recreation, for funding for the five proposed projects under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program.
3. Authorize the Director of Parks and Recreation, or his designee, to negotiate and execute documents, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned projects.
4. Authorize, contingent upon grant funding, the proposed projects located at Bassett Park, Helen Keller Park, Calabasas Cold Creek Trail, Rowland Heights Park, and Pamela Park.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Adoption of the attached resolution by your Board will authorize the Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) to complete the application process with the State Department of Parks and Recreation, California Resources Agency, for the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program (LWCF). The applications must include a resolution by your Board authorizing the applications. Project applications are due May 3, 2004.

Each grant awarded requires a 50 percent funding match. The maximum amount of grant funding available for each project is \$200,000. Upon your Board's approval, project applications will be submitted for the following projects:

Bassett Park Improvements

The proposed grant scope consists of the construction of one new picnic/shade shelter and installation of four drinking fountains, eight barbecue braziers and 15 36-inch box trees. The cost of these improvements is estimated at \$325,000.

Helen Keller Park Improvements

The proposed grant scope consists of the construction of one new picnic/shade shelter, resurfacing of the basketball court, installation of four concrete picnic tables and two barbecue braziers, and ADA walkway access. The cost of these improvements is estimated at \$400,000.

Calabasas/Cold Creek Trail Land Acquisition

The proposed grant scope consists of the acquisition of 40.46 acres of land in the Calabasas Peak area providing an open space link for the Calabasas/Cold Creek County Trail. The County will acquire the property and enter into a management agreement with Mountains Restoration Trust to manage and maintain the property. The cost of the acquisition is estimated at \$500,000.

Rowland Heights Park Improvements

The proposed grant scope consists of the refurbishment of two basketball courts with lighting, construction of one picnic/shade shelter, installation of four picnic tables and two barbecue braziers, and ADA walkway access. The cost of these improvements is estimated at \$400,000.

Pamela Park Improvements

The proposed grant scope consists of the installation of three barbecue braziers, replacement of two picnic/shade shelters and six picnic tables, and ADA walkway access. The cost of these improvements is estimated at \$375,000.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The action supports the following three goals of the County's Strategic Plan: Goal 4 (Fiscal Responsibility) by increasing the Department's public/private partnerships, managing our resources effectively, and investing in the public infrastructure; Goal 5 (Children and Families' Well-Being) by improving facilities used by children and families of the County; and Goal 6 (Community Services) by improving the quality of life for residents by offering services responsive to each community's specific needs.

FISCAL IMPACT/ FINANCING

Approval of the recommended actions will not result in an immediate impact to the General Fund. Should the proposed applications be successful, the LWCF funding would replace existing funding for project elements currently planned as part of the project scope at Rowland Heights Park. At Bassett Park and Pamela Park, the LWCF funds will provide for new improvements to those facilities. At Helen Keller Park, the LWCF funds will contribute additional funding needed for the General Improvements Project.

The Department has developed estimates of one-time start up and annual ongoing operational and maintenance costs for these projects. If the grant applications are successful, the Department will refine both the one-time start-up costs and the ongoing operating costs upon completion of the project design, when more specific information about the improvements would be available.

The Chief Administrative Office will review the cost estimates and will work with the Department to determine the appropriate operating requirements and available funding. Based upon the funding timeline and anticipated project schedules, any one-time or ongoing operational costs from these projects would not be expected to occur until Fiscal Year 2005-06.

The capital and operating cost requirements of the improvements proposed for funding under the LWCF grant applications, as well as the overall funding structure, are summarized below.

Rowland Heights Park

Proposed Grant Request: \$200,000

The proposed project improvements are part of the existing Rowland Heights Park Improvements (C.P. No. 86392), which also includes refurbishment of the basketball courts, parking lot, and security lighting. The total estimated project cost is \$2,548,000, which is currently funded by:

- \$497,000 from the Regional Park and Open Space District;
- \$218,000 in Park In-Lieu Fees (Quimby) Accumulated Capital Outlay Funds (Planning Area No.);
- \$50,000 in prior year Deferred Maintenance net County cost; and
- \$1,783,000 of State Proposition 12 Roberti-Z'berg-Harris funds which is pending approval of the grant application by the State.

If the LWCF grant is awarded, it will replace \$200,000 in currently appropriated funding from the Regional Park and Open Space District. The remaining District funding would be used to meet the match requirement.

These improvements consist of refurbishments to existing amenities. Therefore, upon completion of the improvements, the Department does not anticipate incurring any one time start-up costs or increased annual ongoing maintenance costs as a result of the improvements.

Bassett Park

Proposed Grant Request: \$162,500

The proposed project improvements are estimated to cost \$325,000. Regional Park and Open Space District Excess Funds in the amount of \$162,500 have been reserved from the allocation for County projects within the First Supervisorial District to meet the match requirement.

Upon completion of the improvements, the Department anticipates one time start-up costs of \$300 for trash cans. The annual ongoing costs are estimated to increase by \$6,300 for utilities and for salaries, employee benefits and supplies associated with maintenance of the improvements.

Pamela Park

Proposed Grant Request: \$187,500

The proposed project improvements are estimated to cost \$375,000. Park In-Lieu Fee (Quimby) Accumulated Capital Outlay Funds in the amount of \$187,500 have been reserved in Park Planning Area No. 5 to meet the match requirement.

Upon completion of the improvements, the Department anticipates one time start-up costs of \$120 for trash cans. The annual ongoing General Fund costs are estimated to increase by \$3,700 for contract maintenance services, maintenance supplies and utilities. In addition the Department anticipates an increase in temporary recreation staffing that would be offset by revenue from picnic rentals.

Helen Keller Park

Proposed Grant Request: \$200,000

The project improvements proposed for funding under this grant are currently part of the existing Helen Keller General Improvements Project (C.P. No. 86427), which also includes renovations to the community building. Funding in the amount of \$583,000 from the Regional Park and Open Space District is currently appropriated under the capital project and would be used to satisfy the match requirement. The LWCF grant funds would contribute additional funding needed for the General Improvements Project. However, supplemental funding is required to fully fund the project.

The Department does not anticipate any one time start-up costs. The annual ongoing costs are estimated to increase by \$2,500 for utilities and maintenance supplies.

Calabasas/Cold Creek Trail

Proposed Grant Request: \$200,000

The cost of the acquisition is estimated at \$500,000 which would be funded by the LWCF grant, \$200,000 in grant funding that has been received from the Habitat Conservation Fund for acquisition of open space linkages in the Calabasas Peak Area and would be transferred from C.P. No. 69194, and an additional \$100,000 contribution that is forthcoming from The Mountains Restoration Trust, upon award of the grant.

Upon completion of this acquisition project by the County, the Mountains Restoration Trust would enter into a Management Agreement with the County and be responsible for the management and maintenance of the property. Accordingly, the Department does not anticipate incurring any one-time start-up or annual ongoing maintenance costs.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The LWCF is administered nationally by the National Park Service and provides funds to federal agencies, the 50 states and 6 territories. The State's allocation for this year is expected to be approximately \$12 million. Of that amount, about \$4 million will be available for competitive grants to local jurisdictions in Southern California for acquisition and development of facilities that provide for or support outdoor recreation. Development projects may include the construction of new and/or renovation of existing facilities for outdoor recreation. Acquisition projects must comply with federal law and the submittal of an appraisal in compliance with federal appraisal standards is required prior to funding approval.

This resolution has been prepared to establish the Board's intent to apply for State grant funds. Notification of award is scheduled to be announced in October 2004 and grant agreements for approved projects will be sent to local agencies in November 2004. The Department will be responsible for the completion of all funded projects within five years of the date of execution of a grant agreement.

County Counsel has approved the attached Resolution as to form.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The projects described herein are categorically exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) according to Section 15302(c), 15303(e), 15304(b), 15316(a), and 15325(a) of the *Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act* and Classes 2(e), 3(b), 4(c), 16 and 25(a) of the *Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines* adopted by your Board on November 17, 1987.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES AND PROJECTS

There are no impacts on current services as a result of this action. If funding is awarded, the projects will be accomplished so as to minimize the impact on public use of the affected facilities.

CONCLUSION

Upon approval by your Board, please instruct the Executive Office, Clerk of the Board to forward one conformed copy to the Chief Administrative Office, Capital Projects Division, and two (2) conformed copies of this letter and two (2) originals of the resolution to the Department of Parks and Recreation by Wednesday, April 28, 2004, for completion of the grant application packets.

Respectfully submitted,


FOR Tim Gallagher
Director

Attachments

c: Executive Office (22)
County Counsel

Los Angeles County Chief Administrative Office

Grant Management Statement for Grants \$100,000 or More

Department: PARKS & RECREATION

Grant Project Title and Description

Bassett Park Improvements Project, Helen Keller Park Improvements Project, Calabassas/Cold Creek Trail Land Acquisition, Rowland Heights Park Improvements & Pamela Park Improvements.

Funding Agency

California Dept. of P&R

Program (Fed. Grant #/State Bill or Code #)

Federal Land & Water Conservation Fund
Grant-In-Aid Program

Grant Acceptance Deadline

05-03-04

Total Amount of Grant Funding: \$950,000

County Match: \$950,000

Grant Period: Oct-Dec, 2004* to 06/30/2008

Begin Date: Oct-Dec 2004*

End Date: 06/30/2008

Number of Personnel Hired Under This Grant:

Full Time: 0

Part Time: 0

*Actual beginning date contingent upon project clearance/approval by National Park Service.

Obligations Imposed on the County When the Grant Expires

Will all personnel hired for this program be informed this is a grant-funded program?	Yes	No N/A
Will all personnel hired for this program be placed on temporary ("N") items?	Yes	No N/A
Is the County obligated to continue this program after the grant expires?	Yes x	No
If the County is not obligated to continue this program after the grant expires, the Department will:	N/A	
a.) Absorb the program cost without reducing other services	Yes	No N/A
b.) Identify other revenue sources (describe below)		
	Yes	No N/A
c.) Eliminate or reduce, as appropriate, positions/program costs funded by the grant.	Yes	No N/A

Impact of additional personnel on existing space:

Not Applicable.

Other requirements not mentioned above:

Grantee must own or lease project sites. Sites must be dedicated in perpetuity for public outdoor recreation pursuant to Section 6(f)(3) of the Land & Water Conservation Fund Act. All project sites are/will be held in fee title without encumbrances.

Department Head Signature *Ruth Turner*

Date: 4-15-04

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

**APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION
FUND**

**BASSETT PARK IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT
HELEN KELLER PARK IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT
CALABASAS/COLD CREEK TRAIL LAND ACQUISITION
ROWLAND HEIGHTS PARK IMPROVEMENTS
PAMELA PARK IMPROVEMENTS**

WHEREAS, the Congress under Public Law 88-578 has authorized the establishment of a federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant-In-Aid program, providing Matching funds to the State of California and its political subdivisions for acquiring lands and developing Facilities for public outdoor recreation purposes; and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Parks and Recreation is responsible for administration of the program in the State, setting up necessary rules and procedures governing Applications by local agencies under the program; and

WHEREAS, said adopted procedures established by the State Department of Parks and Recreation require the Applicant to certify by resolution the approval of Applications and the availability of eligible Matching funds prior to submission of said Applications to the State; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Bassett Park Improvements, Helen Keller Park Improvements, Calabasas/Cold Creek Trail Land Acquisition, Rowland Heights Park Improvements and Pamela Park Improvements projects are consistent with the Statewide Comprehensive Recreation Resources Plan *California Outdoor Recreation Plan – 2002*; and

WHEREAS, the Projects must be compatible with the land use plans of those jurisdictions immediately surrounding the Projects:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors hereby:

1. Approves the filing of Applications for Land and Water Conservation Fund assistance; and
2. Certifies that said agency has Matching funds from one or more of the following sources: Park In-Lieu Fees (Quimby), Regional Park and Open Space

District, and Habitat Conservation Funds, and can finance 100 percent of the Projects, half of which will be reimbursed; and

3. Certifies that the Projects are compatible with the land use plans of those jurisdictions immediately surrounding the Projects; and

4. Appoints the Director of Parks and Recreation or his designee, as agent of the County of Los Angeles to accept the grants, conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including but not limited to, Applications, contracts, agreements, amendments, payment requests and so on, and compliance with all applicable current state and federal laws which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned Projects.

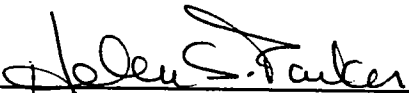
The foregoing resolution was on the _____ day of _____, 2004, adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles and ex officio the governing body of all other special assessment and taxing districts, Agencies, and authorities for which said Board so acts.

VIOLET VARONA-LUKENS, Executive Officer-
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
of the County of Los Angeles

By _____
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL

By 
Helen S. Parker, Principal Deputy